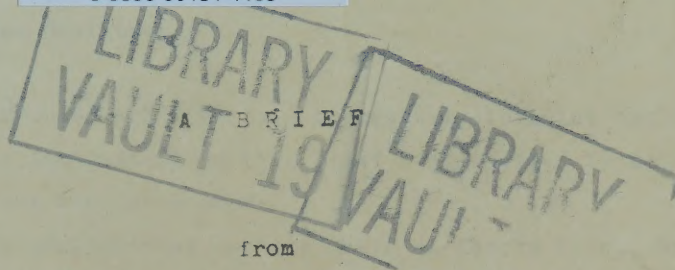


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Brief From the Agricultural Communities
of Cherry Point, Bear Canyon, Clea 1



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from

the agricultural Communities of Cherry Point, Bear Canyon, Cleardale
Clear Prairie, Gordondale, Bay Tree
and Bonanza.

to the

Honourable Dr. Hugh Horner
Deputy Premier
Minister of Agriculture
of Alberta

and the

Honourable H.A. (Bud) Olson
Minister of Agriculture
of Canada



October 16th, 1972

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Honourable Gentlemen:

May we first of all take this opportunity to point out to you, that the following information in this brief was supplied by delegates of the communities mentioned above.

In an unorganizational meeting, held at Cherry Point, October 13th, 1972, at which 120 farmers were present, the following sad picture of the farmers economic plight was discussed.

Two wet, heavy snowfalls during the month's of September and October, made it virtually impossible to harvest any amount of crops.

With your permission we should like to supply the following statistics :

In the area of, Cherry Point, Bear Canyon and Cleardale plus Clear Prairie 89% of all cereal crops and appr. the same amount of the rape crop are at present still out in the fields.

Most of these crops were not swathed and are now flattened due to 14 inches of snow which we received during two consecutive snowstorms.

40% of the haycrops in this area are also still out in the fields.

We also find that no seed grain is available.

In the area of, Gordondale, Bay Tree and Bonanza, the meeting received the following information.

The predominantly grown grain varieties in these areas, are Barley and Oats. Appr. 10% of the Barley and Oats has been harvested and 50% of the 90% outstanding crops are swathed. The condition of the swath in the field was described as very poor and since the area is a relative new farming area, it was feared that little of the snowflattened grain can be harvested, due to the presence of roots in these fields.

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There is also very little seed grain available. 25% of the clover, grown in the area has been harvested and 50% of the outstanding 75% has been swathed.

Little of this years rape crop has been harvested. Most of the outstanding crops are lying in the swath.

The area expresses concern over definite damages to grasslands if a harvest should be attempted. Soggy field conditions are definitely not suited to carry machinery and grass seed crops which are damaged by machinery may not qualify for the grass incentive program.

May we further say, in addition to the information supplied in this brief, that the largest percentage of the crops damaged by the heavy snowfalls, also suffered severe wind-, rain- and hail damage. There can be little doubt that only a very small percentage of the now down crops can be harvested next spring, since the winter snowload will break most of these crops off.

We found that, while a number of smaller livestock operators felt that they had an almost sufficient supply of hay, most of this hay is of very low quality, many of the larger cattle operations are short from 40 to 60 % of their hay requirements.

The meeting unanimously supported the idea of presenting motions to the Government of Alberta and the Government of Canada in order to suggest various ways and means to aid the affected farmers in Northern Alberta.

It was moved that the Alberta Government conduct a survey for the purpose of establishing the amount of fodder, feed and seed grain available in the Peace River Country.

It was moved that the Alberta Government pass legislation which would place a moratorium on all farm debts for 1 year and that the payments

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of 1972 - 73 be added to the end of each contract and that no compound interest can be charged on the 1972 - 73 debt.

It was moved that this meeting approach both Governments for an outright subsistence grant of \$ 2,500.-- . This grant could be made in the form of an acreage payment of \$ 10.-- per acre for the first 250 cultivated acres. In addition to the \$ 2,500.-- subsistence grant, it was moved that an additional \$ 5.-- per acre be asked for on every cultivated acre in excess of 250 acres with no acreage limit on any individual farm operation.

The meeting moved that we approach both, Provincial and Federal Governments for a transportation subsidy for all fodder, feed seedgrain and grass seeds, that are required in the affected areas and that the Alberta Government act as the purchasing agent in order to protect the disaster stricken farmers against excessively high prices.

The meeting also moved that we suggest to the Government, that a better crop insurance program be made available to farmers in Alberta.

In Conclusion, Gentlemen, we should like to respectfully request your most favourable and early consideration in the matter of giving financial aid to the farmers of the area, so that an acceptable standard of living can be maintained.

We should also like to say, that due to a very wet summer, only a limited amount of summerfallow could be done and that very little fall plowing exists in the areas at this time.

We feel that the effects of all the adverse conditions will be felt for at least the next two years.

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Respectfully submitted for your consideration by the elected delegation
consisting of:

Fred Herzog

Fred Herzog Worsley Box 253

Mr. St. Dennis

Per Van Dyke

Mr. Ken Hoover

Ken Hoover

Mr. Ash

Sp Ash

